

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2010**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Meg Walker, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Attorney Marianne Stecich (7:40 p.m.), and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

ABSENT: Trustee Nicola Armacost

CITIZENS: Five (5).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Quinlan: In page one of the minutes it says "Absent, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan." I was present at that meeting. Please change that.

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2010 were approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the following Warrants were approved:

Multi-Fund No. 26-2010-11 \$130,556.91
Multi-Fund No. 27-2010-11 \$ 49,642.95

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: First up for public comment is a new store owner in town. Tony, could you approach the microphone and give us two minutes about your new restaurant.

Tony Weng: I am the owner of a new sushi restaurant at 531 Warburton Avenue. It opened last Thursday, September 30. It was very busy. We are very happy, and thanks for everybody who supports us like we support our Hastings community. My family has owned another Japanese restaurant in Croton-on-Hudson for seven years, and this is our second restaurant. We are very experienced. We want to bring the best to Hastings, and we welcome everybody to have sushi in Sakura Garden. We are open seven days, 11 to 10 on

weekday, 11 to 11 on weekend. Thanks for everybody who helps us in this process, especially Susan and the building department and Marie helped us a lot. This is a beautiful town. I will move my family here. We live in Queens, and we are going to buy a house here. It is a beautiful town, it is beautiful by the river, and we like it here. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: I would the Board members to give me a little feedback on some suggestions I am making. The first would be the leaf blower law. The intentions were very good. I am in agreement with the noise reduction. However, the utility of the machine is being missed with the scope of the law as it is written. Would the Village consider adjusting to what neighboring villages have, year-round use but with certain machines and permits paid? When this whole contention came up, one of the residents from the neighboring community scoffed a bit when I made a comment about how these machines are helpful for, as an example, cleaning up acorns. As everyone knows, this year has been a bountiful acorn crop. On back-to-school night I bumped into a resident on Lincoln Avenue who had her arm in a sling and asked what happened. She said she slipped on acorns and fractured her elbow. I am not equating that having leaf blowers would equal her acorns being cleaned, but I am saying the utility of the machine is valuable. Also, because our sweeper is down and we do not have the assistance of some of the landscapers, the roads in the Village are filthy. In the Villard area and elsewhere there are a lot of oaks and storm damage. They are being used in the post-storm mess from last week. You do not want to feel like a criminal using the machines. There has been leniency, but you do not know where we stand with the law now.

The next item once again is the DPW and the quarry issue. I issued a request two meetings back if the members might take a visit to the facility. There has been a good deal of cleaning since the last meeting. They have cleaned up a lot of the debris that was building up on the Metro-North property. But I asked the Boardmembers to take a look and see if they can really say that we have a system down that is working and will be viable in the future. We recently received an e-mail from the Mayor about a number of topics, and one of them was sustainability. I am wondering if that is somehow being left out of the equation, that we need to address how we are managing our waste facilities. When a resident brought up about the quarry being a park, and they were raising private funds, it would not cost the Village a dime, they said they were going to ask the Village if they could use a backhoe to clear and move things. To me that constitutes a cost to the Village. If there is a park, how it is going to be maintained? If it is going to be maintained privately, do we run the risk of squatters' rights or adverse possession where in 10 years-plus time they assume ownership of the land? I would not think that would happen. That would mean we are going to have maintenance by a Village-paid contractor. It is going to be a cost. I would like to look at that property at the waterfront, and say does it meet our needs for the future. No new land is being made. Could

the quarry be considered something that would be viable for a new facility that, in the long run, will save us money and meet the goal of sustainability?

Mayor Swiderski: On the leaf blower law, I am happy to offer my own sense. If there is a need to do something, it is to try to harmonize all the laws among these various communities so they are more similar out of sheer desire for them to work better. Contractors tend to span villages, and if it is consistent it will be more easily enforced and obeyed. I do not have a particular desire to see individual machine types approved. It complicates oversight and enforcement, and right now it seems to be working pretty well. Does any Board member want to offer any opinion on the current leaf blower law?

Village Manager Frobel: The phone calls I have received over the last two weeks are in support of keeping the law as written in place. It appears that a rash of contractors have jumped the gun and started to use their blowers too early. Over the last several days I have had to dispatch the police to issue some summonses. If anything, the calls that I have received have been in support and to keep it in place as it is written.

Trustee Walker: I never heard any complaints of the law, other than Mr. Downey. I have never received any complaints outside of these meetings. I have received comments about how nice it is to have this law in place. People are grateful for it. I was not involved in the many discussions that led up to approving this law, so I do not feel I am qualified to speak about the timing. But I do feel that most people are satisfied with it. I would agree that ultimately it would be great to make it more consistent with the other communities, however.

Trustee Quinlan: I think it is a good law. We spent a lot of time debating it, studying it, and passing it and, for the most part, it is working to a certain extent. I agree with you, Fran, some people have jumped the gun and I am glad that you followed up on that. No law is perfect, but it is better than nothing and we have a quieter village. So far it is working.

Trustee Jennings: Like Trustee Walker, I was not paying close attention as a citizen to the debates that the Board had when they passed this. I am sure that it was thoroughly debated. I do not quite understand what the notion of underutilizing the technology really means. But I do not see a groundswell of people wanting us to reconsider the law. I agree that consistency across the villages and enforcement are important issues here, regardless of what the law says in terms of machinery or dates. But that is something for the village government to continue to stay on top of. I am intrigued by your bringing in the issue of the streets and their cleaning. It would be worthwhile for the Village Manager and the DPW to look into supplementing the use of our street sweeping machinery with handheld devices that might help to keep the streets cleaner. I agree that that is an issue. Should I transit into the quarry?

Mayor Swiderski: The quarry is a several-part discussion. One is, what is the ultimate goal for the DPW facility on the waterfront? Is it to remain there in its current configuration, change the configuration, what new configuration might work there, are there other locations where the DPW site could move? We are due for that discussion shortly. We are going to be exploring a couple of options. It would be jumping the gun to have that discussion right now. I want to lay out a framework for it because I think it is an important one. It speaks to land use, it speaks to sustainability, it speaks to the DPW structure.

Trustee Jennings: I am in agreement with Mr. Downey very strongly on two of his points. I do not believe that the present location for the DPW operation is sustainable over the longer term. Where it should go is an entirely different matter, and I do not know the answer. Secondly, I agree with you very strongly that waste management is a significant part of our sustainability efforts in the Village and, indeed, we are going to be embarking on a more systematic look at the waste management issue. As the Conservation Commission is, as the Village Manager's office is, the DPW is, I am going to be part of that conversation. It is a very important issue. I thank you for raising it. And stay on it because I hope you can be a part of that, Mr. Downey.

David Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: I am assuming that you got my letter about the State Farm site. I wanted to give you a chance, if you care to respond because that meeting is taking place tomorrow. My question was whether it would be possible to have someone from the Village at that meeting. I have a sense that there are issues since it is not officially Hastings.

Mayor Swiderski: It is not. It is unincorporated.

Mr. Skolnik: It seems as though it nevertheless would have impact on our community. I have this sense that there were clearly issues that these people had been dealing with that were not on the radar here. We have talked in the Comp Plan or in other ways about how we are concerned about not creating these enclaves. And yet here we have a community that has this odd mix. It is part of the school system but legally it is not part of Hastings. Especially in the context of trying to understand this situation about the daycare center, it seemed that in the future it might be worth looking at our relationship with that community as we are looking at other possible development. Maybe we can integrate them more in some way, without stepping on the legality.

Mayor Swiderski: I found out about that proposed use two days before I got your letter, so it was news to me, as well. A quick moment of education. At the intersection of 9-A and Jackson Avenue, the old State Farm building there almost became a funeral home at one

point. The current use proposed for the site is a children's daycare center. That site east of 9-A lies within unincorporated Greenburgh, though the Hastings school district extends beyond that and up to Clarewood Village. It is another one of the anomalies in this area, where school districts are not the same as village districts. They do not pay village taxes, they pay school taxes. We have no jurisdiction there. But it borders our village and there is probably, in courtesy, some notification to the village jurisdiction. I do not know if there was one.

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, there was. It is more than courtesy. It would be required, because I am assuming they had to do SEQRA for it.

Mayor Swiderski: Did we respond?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: It went to the Planning Board. Greenburgh was upfront about it, and has sent plans and notices.

Mayor Swiderski: Did the Planning Board weigh in?

Village Attorney Stecich: It did not come up at the September meeting. I was not at the August meeting, but I do not think it was on. I do not think it was circulated that early anyway.

Mayor Swiderski: We have not weighed in, but we have been notified and it is on to the Planning Board. I was not aware of it, but that does not mean anything. We do not weigh in on it as a board. I guess the Planning Board will decide if they are going to weigh in, or not. Not in time for tomorrow, however.

Mr. Skolnik: Right. Tomorrow's meeting is the Greenburgh planning board, and it is the third meeting in the last roughly year that this issue has come up. So I would like that to remain on the radar.

I would also ask if you could characterize the opportunity, as you see it, at the next stage for public input on the deer issue and the Comp Plan.

Mayor Swiderski: Marianne, I do not know the process around the comment on the Comp Plan. We are going to have our third, hopefully last, session to finish reviewing it. We will come up with our version of that document and, at that point, what would happen?

Village Attorney Stecich: You will have a public hearing. It is your choice on it. Also, you are going to have to conduct SEQRA on it. I would think the public hearings for both of them could be combined. Obviously, the earlier in the process you have the public hearing

the better. So I would say once you agreed on the document that you are going to adopt, soon after that you should call for the public hearing.

Trustee Jennings: Is it permissible to have an open written comment period electronically, where the document is available and people can submit their written comments to the Board of Trustees in addition to the public hearing process?

Village Attorney Stecich: Sure.

Trustee Jennings: I often find, especially on a lengthy, complicated document like the Comprehensive Plan, you get more thoughtful comments if you give people time to think about it and write it out. Written comments would be advantageous to the Board of Trustees as we think about the final version. It is a standard part of administrative procedure at other governmental levels. It is such an important thing, it would behoove us to do it here.

Mayor Swiderski: Agreed. On the deer, once I have the attention of the professor who would ultimately be running it, we will schedule a meeting here for him to address the particulars and describe the project. That would be a public meeting with questions and answers. When that will occur, I do not know.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I reside at the new deer sanctuary. The deer are very smart. They come into my driveway to put on the lights with a motion detector so they can see what they are eating. Then they go into my backyard, defecate all over. I had six there last night sleeping. So I want to make a sanctuary out of my property because I do not think you are ever going to get rid of the deer. Contraceptives are going to take you probably 20 years. I am for the net-and-bolt. I think maybe one Trustee is, but that is neither here or there. But I need some money for the sanctuary. You are very friendly with our friend Joe Sontchi, BP/Atlantic Richfield. You get money for Friday Night Live, recreation, a solar-powered thing. Maybe you could request some donations from him to get me a fence and some people to help clean up the defecation all over. By the way, I am wondering. With all these gifts that you get from Atlantic Richfield, how does the Board reciprocate? Is it by votes? Save Building 52 and down 51, or is it some other thing that you are getting in return for all this money that Atlantic Richfield is giving you? I sure would like an answer.

70:10 TRANSFER OF LICENSING OF DOGS TO TOWN OF GREENBURGH

Village Manager Frobel: You heard last meeting about this problem we encountered. This is another example of the efforts of our village officials committee. All the villages were in the same situation. But rather than throw up our hands and try to reinvent the wheel, we

joined together and what you see is the product of that effort; we are turning to the town to provide a service that, by law, they are capable of doing for us.

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Walker the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has been notified by the State of New York that as of January 1, 2011 the State of New York will no longer be responsible for the licensing of dogs; and

WHEREAS, the Village has been informed by the State of New York that the responsibility for the licensing of dogs will become as of January 1, 2011 the responsibility of the Village or may be transferred by the Village to the Town of Greenburgh by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the funds received for dog licensing may only be used for dog control, education and other dog related purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenburgh already acts as the Village's animal control warden; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenburgh incorporates animal control services in the Town Wide Budget (A); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 109 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, as amended by Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2010, effective January 1, 2011, the Board of Trustees may by resolution transfer applications for licenses for dogs harbored within the Village to the Clerk of the Town of Greenburgh; and

WHEREAS, the licensing of dogs throughout the State of New York except for the Counties of Westchester and Nassau is currently the Responsibility of the Town Clerks; and

WHEREAS, the function of the Town Clerk in the Town of Greenburgh is incorporated in the Town Wide Budget (a); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees believes it to be in the best interest of Hastings-on-Hudson to transfer applications for licenses for dogs harbored within the Village to the Clerk of the Town of Greenburgh, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that applications for licenses for dogs harbored within the Village shall no longer be processed by the Village Clerk but shall be directed for application and processing thereof to the Clerk of the Town of Greenburgh pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of Section 109 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, as amended by Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2010, effective January 1, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

Trustee Walker: We do not have an enforcement role in this, do we? How is it enforced?

Village Attorney Stecich: It will be by Greenburgh because they are the control officer now.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: The Uniontown concession stand project is moving along nicely, despite the bad weather of the last few days. Most of the work in the internal part of the building has been completed, the demolition is moving along nicely. Ray Gomes is providing some oversight to that, along with an engineer who is helping out. They should be doing some of the outdoor work when the weather breaks. They have got to put in a path around it and some of the drainage work.

We took delivery of our hybrid senior van last week. A big thank you to the New York Power Authority, Westchester County, the New York DOT, and the citizens of Hastings. Our contribution is the driver, the fuel, and the maintenance for that vehicle. So although the capital outlay came through those three sources, there is also a contribution on the part of the

Village to making that program work. We hope to have a ceremony with local officials and the agencies that donated the vehicle sometime in the near future.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on Comprehensive Plan

Trustee Quinlan: We had our work session last Tuesday. We got through a lot of the document. It is taking a little longer than we thought, but it is a very substantial document and I think we were optimistic to think we could do it in two work sessions instead of what we hope will be three. We spent three hours on Tuesday and made some good progress. I think we will have at a semi-final draft at least by the end of the year.

2. Update on Waterfront

Trustee Quinlan: We are at a standstill at the Tappan Terminal site because of the heavy rains. On the Exxon Mobil site there is a lot of water and the water is ponding and creating big puddles. One of the concerns of the state, Exxon Mobil and the Village is what the dewatering process is going to be. The DEC has asked Exxon Mobil for a more specific dewatering plan before proceeding to the excavation and the breaking up of the major concrete platforms. When they start excavating the soil one of the main problems is how much water remains in the soil and where will that water go. The perfect scenario is there is no water in the soil because otherwise it will leak out of the soil and out of the truck, and who knows where it goes. When the bad soil leaves the site there should be no water in it so it cannot leach out anywhere. They are coming up with a more specific dewatering plan. The idea is to excavate the soil, put it in a sloped contamination site and let the water soak out, get it in a sump pump, take that contaminated water, put it in a barrel and remove it. One of the other things they do with the soil is mix it with stuff that will absorb the water and make it into a "cement" or a hard thing. We do not want to move bad earth with water in it. And with all the heavy rains, we have got a problem down there so everything is on hold.

The concrete pads that they are breaking up have rebar in them to make them stronger. DEC would like to get them cut up into smaller pieces and have them removed. Exxon Mobil would like to have them removed in larger pieces. So they are debating that, and that is another delay. The air monitoring is in place. As far as I know, there has been no detection from any of the monitoring devices that anything is airborne. Everything that is delayed on the Exxon Mobil site pushes back the Chevron site. But it's going to come like a one-two punch: when Exxon Mobil finishes, Chevron is going to begin. They are on hold right now so we are backed up. We are hoping that we can get to work and get everything on the Exxon Mobil site finished by October, and start on the Chevron site in November.

Trustee Walker: What difference does it make whether they remove the concrete in large pieces or small pieces?

Trustee Quinlan: I do not know exactly. That is a good question. I do not understand what the rebar has to do with it, but I am just giving you facts.

Trustee Walker: And the dewatering would not have been a problem had we not had all this rain.

Trustee Quinlan: I am not so sure of that.

Trustee Walker: I wonder about that because of the high water table.

Trustee Quinlan: It is not only the high water table. I do not think it is important right now to get the answer to that, but my guess is that the dewatering plan is important for obvious reasons. The rains tipped off the DEC to get a more specific plan. I am not saying that anybody did anything wrong, but that is my guess.

Trustee Walker: But the first thing they were doing was to remove the concrete before they start removing soil. So last week what they were removing was the concrete.

Trustee Quinlan: That is my understanding. This is a major undertaking for Hastings and it is not simple. These little bumps in the road we can expect, and we just have to be more protective, get more design. These people have the knowledge how to do it. They are going to figure it out and it is going to get done, and we keep our fingers crossed. So I am not upset or dismayed by this. I anticipated things like this, and we will see more of them. But we are going to keep moving forward.

Mayor Swiderski: Jerry, is the same request/requirement being made of Chevron?

Trustee Quinlan: My understanding, and I am not a civil engineer and cannot tell you exactly, specifically whether Chevron has addressed the problems to the DEC's satisfaction, is after reviewing Chevron's work plan that was provided to the Village and has been provided to me it seems that they have a large section on the dewatering process. So it is not something that they have not dealt with. Whether it is going to be specific enough for the DEC I do not know, but I can guess that now that Chevron is aware of what is going on with Exxon Mobil they will address that problem. That is what I am hoping. And it is good news. The Department of Environmental Conservation is out there to protect us, and they are doing their job, in my opinion.

3. Other

Trustee Walker: Last Friday was not a complete washout. We were disappointed in having to cancel the outdoor activities but there were a lot of people downtown. It turned out to be clear but we canceled because you have to make that decision in the morning about whether you are going to pick up the theatrical lighting and the sound systems and start to install them in the mid-afternoon. We cannot install electrical equipment outside when it is wet. So that was our decision, and we were unhappy about it. But we moved some of the musicians inside. We had people playing in Comfort, and we had the Blues Mothers playing at Rainwater. Steve Forbert was sold out at the Community Center. He must have a cult following because everybody was singing along with him and giving him standing ovations. It was a very exciting concert. The Station Café attracted a lot of youth to the open mic activities. I heard that it was pretty well attended and the library was selling books. People ask me why we don't have a rain date. Part of the reason is that there are so many different pieces. We do not even have control of them all because businesses and restaurants are involved. The other reason is, we move on to the next month. We are constantly moving. As soon as we finish with one, we are on to planning the next. So it is tough to have a rain date, unfortunately. One musical event I would love to have a rain date for because last year it was so much fun is Bash the Trash, which is a really fun group. We will get them back.

November 5 is our first Friday Night Live Film Festival. We are taking over a number of venues, including the Community Center and the Library Orr Room. We hope we can get a couple of privately-owned facilities like the Toast space and the VFW. We have the Human Bodyworks space, which holds 20 to 30 people. This is for filmmakers of all ages. We want to invite anybody, Hastings residents, to submit shorts, 15 minutes or shorter, to the Parks and Rec department by noon October 22. The idea is any type of films, from kids 13 and under, then 14 to 18, and then 19 and above, in several categories: animation, narrative, comedy, documentary, commercial, and short shorts under five minutes. We will have a panel of film professionals reviewing the films. Not every film is going to be shown, unfortunately, but I think we will be able to get through quite a few. We will do them according to themes and categories, and we hope to have some panel discussions about them as well. We may have some outdoor components, weather permitting. We are thinking of having some films showing in storefront windows. If it is a particularly nice night, we might be able to do something on the side of the Protection Engine Firehouse, where we have shown movies before and it is a great spot. We want to celebrate the fact that Hastings has an amazing collection of filmmakers of all different ages. Everybody knows a filmmaker, a cameraperson, a cinematographer, somebody who works on costumes. There are so many people involved in films in this village it is amazing. The kids from elementary school on up are really involved in filmmaking. So we want to celebrate those amazing talents.

Trustee Quinlan: The Economic Development Committee has suggested that they may want to have a representative on the Tourist Committee. I think it is a good idea. I think we should try to include that if it is in our bailiwick.

Mayor Swiderski: It is, and thank you for bringing it up. We got the same request out of the Arts Council. So we had two different committees, both with interest in promoting tourism, who have asked to be represented. We are the only village that only has one person on that committee. We have latitude to add a couple of people, and I am all in favor. At the moment that we were asked we did not have anybody in mind, and then Meg stepped forward. The first meeting is tomorrow. Probably too soon to rally somebody from either one of these groups for that meeting, but at that meeting you can say that we may have others joining.

Trustee Walker: I definitely will raise it. We can also circulate the bylaws so people get an idea of the goals and mission of this group. I would be happy to reach out to them after tomorrow night's meeting.

Mayor Swiderski: Bruce, if I could ask you to describe what the Conservation Commission and others are up to in regard to the IGGC.

Trustee Jennings: Certainly. Let me just give a quick update on the sustainability thing. I circulated to the Board of Trustees an updated version of the Sustainability Action Plan, and will be putting that updated version on the Web site for the public to see. This is a checklist document. As we get things done, we make a note that something has been accomplished, and we add new items as we go along. We have a few items checked off that we have accomplished. The receipt of the hybrid van is one; there are several others.

One of the important items in the sustainability plan is changes to the Hastings building code for new construction and major renovation that will require that materials are environmentally sound and would reduce our carbon footprint. The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission are working very diligently on this process. There are many standards that might be incorporated into our own Village requirements. One of the most promising are environmental standards put forward by a group called the International Code Commission. There will be meetings held next month, and then immediately after the first of the year there will be a large all-day meeting involving many interested parties: stakeholders, contractors, building owners, environmental people, the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, the Village Building Inspector, and so forth.

So that process is really going forward. It is still in an investigation and discussion phase, but we are hoping that out of that meeting in early January will come some fairly conclusive recommendations. The Planning Board will then be drafting a report for consideration and action by the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Swiderski: I wanted to bring up the budget process for next year. It is a proposal I put forward to the Board after discussions between the Village Manager, Niki, and myself for a way to try to head off the difficulties we have encountered and try to put some bounds around this process before it begins. The proposal is quite straightforward heading into the budget process, rather than after the fact: have a special meeting where the Village Manager will raise large budget items that may have changed from the previous year, perhaps an increase in the pension amounts or known contracts that have been signed or capital expenses that we can avoid, and then a discussion among the Board based on that input of what our target is for the budget for the next year. So instead of coming out with a number and dragging it down to a target we provide after the fact, provide that target ahead of time so that expectations are set and the Village government can work within those parameters. It seems less acrimonious, potentially, and certainly provides greater guidance to the municipal government. Niki was not here to present this, so I am doing it in her stead. She is charged with the budget for this Board, and that was the idea she came up with. Any input?

Trustee Walker: So before the department heads are asked to put their budgets together we, in fact, meet. And then we come up with guidelines for the individual departments, or just overall?

Mayor Swiderski: No, it is overall.

Trustee Walker: So what kind of guidance could the Village Manager give the departments? It would be based on our overall feelings?

Mayor Swiderski: That is right.

Trustee Walker: So then it is up to the discretion of the Village Manager how he wants to divide up the pie.

Mayor Swiderski: That is right, but with guidance from the Board. Micromanagement is not something we should be doing, and the current process forced us into that role after the fact. Obviously, if something comes up between November and March that was not clear to the Village Manager when he first laid out the large-ticket items that might affect our thinking, we will be able to respond to that. Things can change, but at least overall guidance is provided.

Trustee Walker: And, Fran, will you have some idea about the revenues at this point?

Village Manager Frobel: No. What I have been doing over the last few days, since my meeting with the Mayor and Trustee Armacost, is looking at next year's budget and what are some of the key elements that may change. As the Mayor indicated, I have isolated probably 15 or 18 different items that I have got to keep an eye on.

Trustee Walker: Both revenues and expenses.

Village Manager Frobel: No, I am only doing expenditure: what do we think the budget may have to go up next year just on expenditures. You can imagine what they are: pensions, health care again on the uptick. Despite the talk, it is not stabilizing, it is going the other way. I have talked to our insurance agent. I am getting some of those issues isolated. I will have a projection as to what we should be looking at for a potential increase in next year's budget.

Trustee Quinlan: I have been unhappy with the way the budget process has been going since I have been on the Board, at least four budget cycles. We were doing everything historically the way it has been done, but it did not make a lot of sense to me. I do not want to micromanage. But we can get a framework, and then let the departments and the Village Manager work within these frameworks and figure it out. It is a good idea, it has got to happen, and I am glad it is finally happening. The only suggestion I would have is, we may have to identify items that have to decrease because of the projected increases. There may have to be some tax increase, but it is very unlikely, unless there are persuasive arguments, or a catastrophe, that I am going to be in favor of a big tax increase in the next budget cycle, because people just cannot afford it.

Trustee Jennings: I agree. This is a very good step toward a more rational budget process: a global budget and then allow management to work within a cap, within parameters, is a very good way for a legislative body like us to do it. Once the targets are established, we allow the professionals to determine their priorities within their areas of responsibility. They are better able to set those priorities than we are, poring over line by line at the 11th hour the way we have in the past, which I have always felt very uncomfortable about. I am glad to see this reversed so we are doing what we should do, setting general targets and worrying about the broad policy issue that we should worry about, which is maintaining quality services and controlling taxes. It makes sense to look at this, even though we are only looking at the expense side and not the revenue side. Our operating fund and our reserves are so low at this point that almost irregardless of whether we get a great surprise in terms of sales taxes going up or some such thing, we are going to have to do this frugal budgeting for

the foreseeable future, the next few years I think, to build ourselves back to a condition of fiscal health as a village. We are going to take reasonable steps, even though we are not keying this to known revenues, and that makes sense to me also, especially now.

Mayor Swiderski: Next Friday our congressman, Representative Engel, will be here for a dedication of the plaque for the statue going in MacEachron Park commemorating the Hudson School painters. Whoever can attend will be welcome.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: In conjunction with the resolution to turn the dog licensing over to the town, Dobbs Ferry indicated its intention to stop issuing hunting and fishing licenses, which is another function of my office. I was curious as to why they were doing it. I did a little research and discovered that besides Hastings and Dobbs Ferry, in the whole state there are only two other villages that issue hunting and fishing licenses. It is clearly a function of the towns and also of sporting goods stores. In the past year, we issued 68 licenses. Fewer than a third of those were to Hastings residents. Most of our customers are from Yonkers because it is easier to come here and get it. Of these 68 licenses we made a commission of \$84. That is all we were allowed to keep. I also found out that they do not have to be bought in person. I went on the DEC Web site and found that you can get licenses online, by phone, by mail. The system has been down for the past week or so and we have not been able to access it. A couple of people have come in, and we have told them this and given them a copy of the printout from the Web site. They are very surprised that they did not have to do it in person. It is one more thing that is extremely time-consuming. I do not want to sound like we do not wish to service the public, but you have to really marshal your resources. You have got to direct your office the best way you can, and there are many more productive things we could be doing in my office rather than doing this. I do not know if it requires any action since we are not required to do it.

Village Attorney Stecich: It is not something you have to turn over to the Town. We just say we are not going to issue licenses anymore.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I could write a letter to the DEC saying we are no longer going to function as an agent of the DEC, unless there are any objections from anyone, or anything we are not seeing here.

Mayor Swiderski: All in favor?

[Board agreement]

Trustee Jennings: I have a procedural question. Some committees function by the Board of Trustees asking them to do something and then report back. The Public Health Committee is a committee that does that. I have a request from a citizen who would like to meet with the

Board of Public Health and ask them to look into a particular issue. I wonder what the right procedure officially requesting a board to have a meeting would be. Should our individual Trustees be permitted to communicate with a board directly, or do we have to have Board agreement before that is done?

Mayor Swiderski: It should come through here as a discussion item because you could have, potentially, not chaos, but something that does not represent the will of the Board.

Trustee Jennings: I agree. I am happy to do that.

Mayor Swiderski: You raise a topic that Trustee Armacost, who is not here, has been looking into, which is how board and commission mandates are changed and updated. It is a discussion we need to have because some of these boards function on mandate, and others have their own agendas. We have not been applying mandates to any boards, and we should discuss whether that should happen in a more organized way and how that would happen.

Trustee Walker: And even if they do have their own agendas, and I think that is fine, there is some guidance that we could be giving them, particularly as we are looking at our Comprehensive Plan. There are going to be a lot of action items that we are going to need help on.

Mayor Swiderski: Without a doubt. If I was going to say my greatest failing or disappointment in what I set out when I came here a year and a half ago was to effectively use boards and committees. While we have fully engaged a few, it has not been nearly comprehensive enough. It has nagged at me.

Trustee Walker: One thing would be to invite one or two committees or their chairs at a time to come to a meeting where we talk about what they are doing and what they would like to do as a board, and the things that we would like to see done.

Mayor Swiderski: I would prefer that we agree on the process before we invite them. A framework, and Nicky has been working on that. It is the project that never ends because it could be so ambitious. One thing we did was step back from what used to be a liaison mechanism where each one of us had three or four committees. That never seemed particularly effective, but we did not replace it with anything. So some of these committees feel entirely at sea, others feel fully engaged, and we have to rectify that. That is on me, and I will serve up my colleague Nicky for the two of us to come up with something coherent.

Trustee Walker: Bruce also made a recommendation of having a meeting in the future to discuss enforcement issues. So many different things have surfaced in the last few meetings,

and will when we start talking about the design guidelines. The enforcement issue is a really good discussion. But probably we need to have some information, again a framework, before we plunge into it.

Village Manager Frobels: That is what I am doing now. I sent a memo to the department heads that are charged with some of those areas we spoke about. We will be meeting over the next several days to map out a strategy and a recommendation to the Board to begin that conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m.